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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/772,122	02/04/2004	David S. Majkrzak	C136.12-0016	4277
27367	7590 05/25/2006		EXAMINER	
WESTMAN CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.			TORRES, ALICIA M	
SUITE 1400 900 SECON	D AVENUE SOUTH		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3319			3671	
			DATE MAIL ED: 05/25/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
	10/772,122	MAJKRZAK, DAVID S.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Alicia M. Torres	3671				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).						
Status						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 Fe	ebruary 2006.					
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL . 2b) ☑ This	This action is FINAL . 2b)⊠ This action is non-final.					
•—	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is					
closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.						
Disposition of Claims						
 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,14 and 15 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14 and 15 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 5 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. 						
Application Papers						
 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. 						
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 						
Attachment(s)	а п	(DTO 442)				
 Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 	4) Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal P 6) Other:					

Election/Restrictions

Newly submitted claims 14 and 15 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the new claims are drawn to a sickle bar which has a very different scope than that of a knife section.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 14 and 15 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

In the present instance, claim 1 recites "in the range of 14%", not clearly setting forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. A range should set forth an amount or extent of variation. It is unclear if the percentage of indentation should be equal to 14% or a range, which is not specified by the applicant, around 14%.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

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such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poget FR 2 595 190 in view Henderson 172,736.

Poget discloses a knife section shown on the right in the figure for mounting on a reciprocating sickle bar for a harvester and reciprocating during use across an edge of a stationary sickle guard, the knife section being flat and having a top surface plane and comprising a base with a laterally extending base edge, the knife section having a leading end transverse to the central plane of the knife section spaced from the base edge, mounting holes in the base for securing the knife section to a sickle bar, the knife section having a central dividing plane perpendicular to the top surface plane of the knife section and bisecting the top surface plane between the base and leading end, and the base having side edges parallel to the central dividing plane, the leading end being of substantially less lateral width perpendicularly to the center dividing plane than a width between the side edges of the base, as defined by the base edge, a pair of cutting edges, one on each side of the knife section and each cutting edge defining a cutting line that is part of a circle that continually moves away from the center plane of the knife section at a greater rate for each increment of distance in direction from the leading end to the base along the cutting plane adjacent the base than at the leading edge from a first end of such cutting line adjacent the leading end to a second end of the cutting line at a junction of the cutting line with a respective side edge on the respective side of the base of the knife section, and each cutting line being concave with respect to a straight line between the first and second ends of the respective cutting line in the range of 14% of the length of the straight line, such that the opening between adjacent knife sections placed edge to edge on a sickle bar results in increased

feed area for crop material that is cut with reciprocation of the knife section when installed on a sickle bar.

However, Poget fails to disclose wherein the side edges of the base have a length of between 40% and 50% of a distance from the base edge to the leading end; and

Wherein the cutting edge is serrated.

Henderson discloses a knife section (A) with a serrated cutting edge wherein the side edges of the base have a length of between 40% and 50% of a distance from the base edge to the leading end.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the side edges of Henderson on the knife section of Poget in order to enable easy handling for sharpening.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been considered but are most in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia M. Torres whose telephone number is 571-272-6997. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will, can be reached at 571-272-6998.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-1113. The fax number for this Group is 571-273-8300.

Thomas B. Will Supervisory Patent Examiner Group Art Unit 3671

AMT May 22, 2006